

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 16 as follows:

Fig. 7A shows the state in which the insertion unit 2 of the endoscope 1 is inserted into the sigmoid colon 30. In general, the sigmoid colon 30 is the most complexly tortuous among all the parts of the large intestine. Moreover, the sigmoid colon 30 is soft and movable. When the insertion unit 2 is inserted while [[wile]] moved in line with the shape of the sigmoid colon 30, the distal side of the soft section 10 should be bent a little as softly as possible. When the insertion unit 2 must be inserted into the sigmoid colon 30 or any other complexly tortuous region, if the soft section 10 has the small-diameter portion 10a as the distal side thereof like the one of the endoscope 1 included in the present embodiment, the insertion unit 2 can be smoothly introduced into the sigmoid colon 30 or any other complexly tortuous region.